

Bolivar Bulletin.

M. R. PARKER, Editor.

SATURDAY, - - - Oct. 19, 1867

Col James S. Hull.

This is the name of the Warden of the State Prison at Nashville. He is charged with malefactions in office, and is now being tried before the Penitentiary Commissioners. From the testimony taken in the case it appears that Hull is a fiend, a devil incarnate. It will be remembered that at the time he was placed in charge of the prison it was done by the radical rulers over the head of a gentleman that bid \$175,000 more than he did. Hull is a particular pet of the Parson Governor, and a fair sample of the men of that stripe. To show our readers that Hull is a terrible, cruel man, we give below the testimony of W. H. Ferguson, one of the many witnesses examined:

A young negro girl was there as a prisoner; she was removed from the prison to Hull's quarters; she remained there a short time; witness did not know how long she did stay there; a short time afterwards she was gone and missing; witness knew of no effort to recapture her; she was far gone in pregnancy; it was generally reported among the guards that sexual intercourse was had with the female prisoner, and that she was the mother of a child. Q. Mr. Ferguson, state all you may know about the punishment of the convicts while you were there. I want you to commence first and describe the mode of whipping them.

A. It was done with a whip. It was a turned piece of wood, a handle, I suppose, about 20 or 25 inches long. A very heavy piece of sole leather attached to the end of that, and about the length of the handle. To the end of that was attached four throngs of raw hide platted, about the thickness of my little finger, and from 8 to 10 inches long. Q. Now describe the position in which the convict was placed when they prepared him to receive a whipping.

A. Well, he was brought out and made to lie down upon his belly. They stripped his clothes off of him, pulled his breeches down to his feet and turned his shirt upon his shoulders.

Q. Now describe where the man stood that inflicted the punishment.

A. Well, Mr. Crew said he got orders from Hull, to take the convicts out of one room into another, and he would have his revolver in one hand and the whip in the other. If the convicts would not lie exactly still, he would hit them a few extra. I have seen this Callahan put one of his feet on his hands and the other on his neck, to keep him from making a noise while Crew would be whipping them. The Col's orders were to keep them from making a noise.

Q. Have you ever seen Col. Hull present at any whipping.

A. He was always present except at three times. He would tell them, "Give them lightning and thunder, Frank; throw it in keen."

Q. How many are the most stripes you ever knew to be inflicted on any convict at a time?

A. Sixty blows with that large whip are the most I ever saw. That whip cut four links at a time, and on account of its being so large and heavy, it cut the skin deep. Q. Sixty links with that instrument would be how many lashes?

A. It would be four times the sixty, which is two hundred and forty. And at the time the punishment was inflicted upon that man, his clothes stuck close to his back with blood and matter. He had been whipped three nights in succession before this time. He was whipped because he could not get his task done. The first three nights that he had been whipped because he could not get his task done. He was in such a situation that he could not work.

Q. How many convicts have you known to be whipped at a time?

A. I cannot say positively to the number; I know I have seen as many as eighteen whipped at one time. One night I saw one of the darkest whistled in the cell. I tried to find out the man, and I tried to find in which cell it was, but I could not. Col. Hull said, I will find out who it was. He said bring down the whole wall. All were whipped but two. They made up some kind of a story, and told it so they got off. The number of the wall numbered about twenty-eight. They whipped them to ascertain who it was that whistled. They brought them out two at a time and whipped them. There were three men brought out that had been hauled. One of them had been whipped two nights in succession, and was not able to fill his task; he complained of being sick from rheumatism. He said from work until after 9 o'clock. The doctor came in and said, "Go on to work; you are not sick." The whole three fell off 195 pounds in huddling, and Col. Hull ordered that to be divided into three parts, and give them that many lashes. While Frank Crew was whipping them, Col. Hull said, "Pour it into them, Frank; it will make them come up to their task. Just increase the dose until they do come up to their task." There was some more whipping done that I have not yet made a statement of. It was some time in the first of June, and on the Sabbath. There were ten white men whipped on that Sunday.

Q. Now tell how they were whipped?

A. They laid them down and whipped them. They were all white men. They begged them to shoot their brains out. They were whipped until they evacuated from the bowels and bladder. A few days afterward I gave them some oil to grease themselves to keep the clothes from sticking to them. These ten men were whipped for trying to get away. It was the report that day that they were going to break over the wall.

Q. Did you see Coffee whipped?

A. I did sir. It was, sir, one of the men that I saw doing his business. I thought he was going to die. I thought Frank was going to cut them in two, for he is a very stout man, and while he was whipping them he would tip-toe, and lay it on as hard as he could.

Q. Who ordered these ten men to be whipped?

A. Col. Hull, sir. They would cry for mercy in the most pitiable tones I ever did hear from convicts or anybody else.

Q. How many times did you see convicts whipped in the Penitentiary?

A. Hundreds of times, and hundreds of men whipped. Every night during the month, one night Mr. Hull and Judge Swigert came out from supper. The guards went out and made a loud mark on the wall because they missed a night of court martial; they said it was the first time in a month.

Q. Do you mean to say that Callahan would put his foot on the convict's neck and choke him to keep him from making a noise when he was being whipped?

A. Yes, sir, I do. One man would put his foot on the convict's neck, and another would put his foot upon his arms.

Q. Was Col. Hull present at the time?

A. Yes, he was.

Q. Could he see these men while they were being whipped?

A. There was nothing to hinder him from seeing them. Of course, he could see them.

Great God! was there ever such a picture as this exposed before? Right here in

Tennessee, in sight of the temple wherein laws are made and where a parcel of men meet for the purpose of looking after the well-fare of the people, a devil in human shape glazes over the incarcerated, outraged bodies of his miserable and helpless wards. Hull is a radical, he was placed in charge of the State prison by radicals, and they are to some degree, at least, responsible for the awful deeds of the monster who they have kept in office. No one ever heard of such a list of atrocious crimes being committed in this State until radicals got in power; and as long as they remain in power just so long the country may be prepared to hear of such devilish work as that done by Col. Hull.

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September 7, 1867.

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WE ARE PREPARED TO PRINT

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Petition to Sell Town Lot

In the County Court of Hardeman County,

James H. Robinson vs. Arthur Perce.

It appearing to the undersigned Clerk and

Master of said Court from the petition

which is sworn to, that the defendant above

named is a non-resident of the State of Ten-

nessee; it is therefore ordered that publica-

tion be made in the Bolivar Bulletin for four

consecutive weeks, requiring said defendant

to enter his appearance in said cause on or

before the first Monday of November, 1867,

and plead, answer or demur to said petition,

or the same will be taken for confessed and

for hearing experts as to him. Sept 25,

1867. JAMES B. HARRIS, C. & M.

Wood & McNeal, solrs for petitioner.

sept 25 4t

pr loc 86.

Local Advertisements.

NOTICE.

Having retired from the Drug business, and resuming my private life, I respectfully request my patrons, Mr. CHAS. M. O'HARA, to the favorable notice of my old patrons, and hope they will extend to him the patronage so liberally bestowed upon me, and can assure them that the Drugs in his store are of the very best quality, and will be sold as low as soon, pure Drugs can be sold anywhere.

T. E. MOORE, M. D.

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Purposes.

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Having bought the Drug Store from Dr. T. E. MOORE,

and increased the stock, and entirely refitted the house, I

am now prepared to do business as before, and can assure

my old patrons, and hope they will extend to him the patronage

so liberally bestowed upon me, and can assure them that the

Drugs in his store are of the very best quality, and will be

sold as low as soon, pure Drugs can be sold anywhere.

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